Annual report of the Indian Cotton Mills Federation

2620. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Cotton Mills Federation has submitted its annual Report;

(b) if so, the details of suggestions made to check closure of more mills since January, 1998; and

(c) the steps proposed to assist textile mills passsing through crisis?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) A copy of the Annual Report (1997-98) of the Indian Cotton Mills Federation has been received, though the Federation is not required to submit a report to the Government.

(b) The Indian Cotton Mills Federation has, inter-alia urged upon the Government to make available adequate credit at reasonable rate of interest to textile units.

(c) Apart from intending to launch a Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme to make available to identified sectors of textile industry loans by financial institutions at an interest incentive, the Minister of Textiles and Minister of Revenue have also urged upon the financial institutions/ banks to show a flexibility in norms wherever possible, to help the textile industry get out of the problems of shortage of finance.

Rehabilitation of Handloom Weavers

2621. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the proliferation of textile mills have affected the handloom weavers in the country;

(b) the number of handloom weavers affected, State wise; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to rehabilitate these handloom weaver?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) and (b) The Central Government does not maintain any data of affected handloom weavers due to the proliferation of textile mills in the country.

(c) The Office of the Development Commissioner (Handlooms) extend financial assistance through a number of Schemes, such as, Project package Scheme, Handloom Development Centres Scheme, Development of Exportable product Scheme, Worshed-cum-Housing Scheme, Market Development Assistance Scheme, etc. to develop and promote handloom weavers.

Effect of price hike in textile goods on common man

2622. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the price hike in textile goods and its effects on common man; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to ensure that the textiles goods are within the reach of common man?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) and (b) The average prices of mill-made fabrics have shown only marginal increases by 0.4 percent to 1.5 percent in October, 1998 compared with prices prevailing in December, 1997. On the other hand the average prices of powerloom-made cotton and synthetic fabrics actually recorded a significant decline by 6.5 percent and 24.3 percent in October, 1998 as compared with respective prices prevailing in April, 1998. Thus, the question of price hike in textile fabrics does not arise. The per capita availability of fabrics is also esti-